FALL 2026

Pathways and Possibilities

A GIFT PLANNING PUBLICATION OF CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Students compete in the Hudson Relays, a Case Western Reserve University tradition dating back to 1910 that commemorates the university's historic 26-mile move from Hudson, Ohio, to Cleveland.

Turning Values into Impact

A Bicentennial Year of Vision and Possibility

As Case Western Reserve University celebrates its bicentennial—and with recent recognition by Forbes as a "New Ivy," a designation based on outcomes and employer perceptions of graduates' readiness and impact—we are reflecting on 200 years of discovery, innovation and partnerships, and looking ahead to what comes next.

Many of our alumni and friends see their values reflected in the university's work—and choose to support the areas that reflect them. One alumnus described why he came to Case Western Reserve:

> *"I chose Case Western Reserve because of the rigor, the quality of students I interacted with, the professors … I quickly picked up on the fact that if you applied yourself, there was a support system there that wanted to see you be successful."*

Another alum explained why scholarship gifts are so important:

> *"To be competitive, we have to continue to attract high-quality students who can take full advantage of the education … The longevity and success of the program—and the success of so many of its students—are in large part thanks to that commitment and support."*

Students are drawn to CWRU for what they find here: a rigorous curriculum, faculty who encourage them to "be a force" and apply what they learn and a culture that supports success. And as alumni, they make the choice to give back because they want to keep that going and see their values reflected here. **Where do you see your values reflected and continued at CWRU?**

As you make your year-end plans, we invite you to consider how your giving can carry those values forward—supporting the students, programs and ideas that reflect what matters most to you, ensuring those opportunities continue.

In this issue of ***Pathways and Possibilities***, we share several ways to support what matters most while making thoughtful use of available planning opportunities. Please use the attached reply card to request more information or a copy of our complimentary brochure, ***Seven Strategies for Year-End Giving***.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and generosity and hope to see you at Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, **Oct. 8–11**. Together, we can turn thoughtful planning into lasting impact!

With gratitude,

Amanda Pinney, Carol Stephan and Jennifer Keller
Office of Strategic Giving
Case Western Reserve University

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Thank you for being an important part of the Case Western Reserve community!

Gifts That Reflect What Matters Most

When charitable giving reflects your deepest priorities, it shifts from a financial transaction to an opportunity to create a meaningful impact and build a legacy.

For many alumni, year-end giving is a chance to support the people, programs and causes that you care about while also making thoughtful use of available tax and planning strategies. The right gift can help us make a long-term impact on our students, while providing you with important benefits.

The resources you use can be just as important as the amount you give. While many supporters think first of cash, other assets and strategies may be more efficient and effective. Exploring different gift options can help you choose an approach that puts your values into action and aligns tax and planning benefits with your overall financial goals.

DON'T FORGET: Due to federal tax law changes new in 2026, only the portion of your total annual giving amount that exceeds 0.5% of your adjusted gross income qualifies for a charitable deduction.

Make a Bigger Impact with Stock

If you have held appreciated stock for more than one year, it may be one of the most tax-wise assets available for charitable giving. By transferring the stock directly to CWRU, you may be able to:

1. Qualify for an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value (subject to limitations)
2. Bypass the capital gains tax on the appreciation

This can be an especially powerful gift if you are rebalancing your portfolio but do not want to pay tax on a stock's significant appreciation.

Example: Abbie and Tony bought stock in a small pharmaceutical company years ago and are pleased with its strong recent performance. In fact, their initial $10,000 investment is now worth $35,000. If they sell the stock, they would owe capital gains taxes. Instead, they transfer the stock directly to CWRU, qualifying for a charitable deduction for the full $35,000 (subject to limitations)—a substantial savings in their 35% tax bracket—and bypassing the capital gains tax on the appreciation.*

Create an Income Stream

If you want to make a powerful gift while creating a fixed lifetime income stream for yourself and/or someone else (two people max), a charitable gift annuity (CGA) is worth considering. You create the CGA with cash or appreciated property, and you may receive an immediate income tax deduction for the charitable portion of your gift while also minimizing your capital gains tax liability (if you fund it with appreciated property).

The payout amounts are based on the amount of the gift, the age(s) of the income recipients and current charitable gift annuity rates. Deferring the start of payments can also result in a higher payment amount.

Sample one-life gift annuity rates, current in 2026, effective since 2024.

AGE OF ANNUITANT	65	70	75	80	85	90+
PAYOUT RATE	5.7%	6.3%	7.0%	8.1%	9.1%	10.1%

Rates are subject to change. Charitable gift annuities may not be available in all states. Contact us for current rates and availability information.

Example: At age 78, Rose makes a $25,000 charitable gift annuity with CWRU. In return, she receives annual payments of $1,900 for life, and she may qualify for an immediate charitable deduction. She values the additional retirement income and enjoys knowing that the remainder of her gift will help fuel innovation, leadership and the student experience.*

Shift from Saving to Giving

Giving from your IRA is a simple way to make a meaningful gift while also taking advantage of important tax benefits. If you are 70½ or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to CWRU. This transfer will satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) if one is due (generally starting at age 73).

There are two QCD options:

- **An outright gift.** You can make this QCD every year, and the distribution is tax free up to $111,000 (in 2026).
- **A life income gift.** This one-time option allows you to make a tax-free transfer of up to $55,000 (in 2026) from your IRA to establish a new charitable gift annuity (CGA). (Note, some restrictions apply.) This giving tool provides the IRA owner and/or the owner's spouse with a regular income stream. Spouses may each contribute up to $55,000 from their own IRAs to fund a joint-life CGA.

Example: David, age 75, is required to take annual distributions from his IRA, but he does not need the extra income for living expenses. Instead of receiving the taxable RMD, he uses a QCD to direct $40,000 from his IRA to CWRU. By giving directly from his IRA, David satisfies his RMD while avoiding the income tax he would have paid on that amount. He is pleased to support education, research and innovation in a tax-efficient way.*

Make a Difference That Endures

If you are interested in a simple, powerful gift that costs you nothing today, a future gift in your will or revocable living trust or through a beneficiary designation is a flexible option. You can even adjust your gift if your needs or goals change. Consider these simple ways to carry your values forward well beyond your lifetime.

Give for the Future

One way to avoid the new limitations on charitable deductions is to add Case Western Reserve University to your will or living trust or name the university as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account. These legacy gifts reflect your values, strengthen our mission and demonstrate lasting care for our students. A future gift also has no impact on your current finances and is easy to change if your needs or goals change.

If you have already planned a future gift to Case Western Reserve University, we invite you to share that news with us. It would be our pleasure to thank you for helping ensure future generations can experience all the university has to offer and to welcome you into the Luminary Society—our community of supporters who are lighting the way forward through their generosity.

Homecoming 2026: Connect from Anywhere

Can't make it back to Cleveland? You can still be a part of Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

Join alumni and friends online for faculty presentations, research lectures and university updates, and stay connected to the discoveries and innovations shaping CWRU today.

Oct. 8-11

Learn more and register at **case.edu/alumni/events/homecoming**.

*All examples are for illustrative purposes only.

Your Vision, Our Mission

Your values help shape the choices you make, including the work, causes and people you choose to support. Whether your gift helps support our students, faculty and programs today or strengthens CWRU well into the future, your generosity makes a meaningful difference.

To learn more, please contact us or return the attached reply card to request our free brochure, ***Seven Strategies for Year-End Giving***. We are happy to discuss the giving opportunities that may be right for you.

Your Year-End Giving Checklist

- Reflect on the causes, values and priorities that matter most to you.
- Review opportunities to give appreciated assets, especially if you are rebalancing your portfolio.
- Consider whether a gift from your IRA may be beneficial (for those age 70½ and older).
- Explore whether you would benefit from creating a new income stream through a life income gift.
- Review your will or living trust and your beneficiary designations.
- Discuss your goals and plans with your professional advisors.
- Consider making your gift in honor or memory of someone special.
- Start early to complete gifts on or before December 31 to receive a tax deduction this year.
- Contact us if we can help.

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Every CWRU story is unique.
We'd love to hear yours.

Contact the Office of Strategic Giving to discuss charitable planning or to share what CWRU has meant to you.

plannedgiving.case.edu

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For reference:

Legal Name
All charitable gifts should be directed to Case Western Reserve University, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7090, an Ohio 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization, or its successor, Federal Tax Identification Number: 34-1018992.

Tax I.D. Number
Case Western Reserve University's Tax ID number is 34-1018992.